

SECTION THREE – FACT SHEETS

Chapter Fifteen – Plants

Plant Groups of Acadia National Park

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Acadia's Common Plants Field Guide





Fact Sheet – Plant Groups of Acadia National Park

There has been a long history of botanical exploration in and around Acadia National Park. In the late 1880s, students from Harvard University made their way to Acadia from Boston via train and steamship each summer in search of the unique plants found in bogs, on mountain summits, and the many habitats in between. The Champlain Society, as they called themselves, published “Flora of Mount Desert Island, Maine,” authored by Rand and Redfield, in 1894. This benchmark publication cataloged vascular plants, mosses, algae, and lichens.

Acadia has over 1100 vascular plant species that represent a wide diversity of plant life adapted to thrive in acidic, low nutrient bogs and rocky, treeless mountain summits. Grasses and wildflowers abound in park meadows, and lakes and ponds are home to emergent and floating aquatic vegetation. Almost one quarter of Acadia’s flora is non-native, and about 25 species are state-listed rare plants. It is evident that 300 years of human settlement and land use have changed the composition of plant communities throughout Acadia National Park.

FORESTS

When Samuel Champlain first wrote about the mountains of Mount Desert Island, he described their summits as barren and deserted of vegetation. He also noted that their slopes were covered with forests of pine, fir, and birch. Today, 18 major types of forests have been identified in the Acadia National Park area, going well beyond Champlain’s account in the 1600s.

Acadia National Park is blanketed with forests and woodlands that are situated in the transition zone of two eco-regions: the northern boreal forest and the eastern deciduous forest. Much of the park is covered by spruce-fir forests, representative of the boreal influence. Acadia also contains stands of oak, maple, beech, and other hardwoods more typical of most of New England. Several unique, isolated forest communities, such as pitch pine and scrub oak woodlands, are found in the park at their northeastern range limit. Similarly, jack pine reaches the southern limit of its range in Acadia. Coastal forests are dominated by white spruce and low-lying boggy areas surrounded by black spruce and larch. The diversity of Acadia’s forests are only one of the park’s special attributes, providing different habitats that support a variety of wildlife, especially birds.

A catastrophic fire in 1947 that burned a large portion of the eastern side of Mount Desert Island was the most recent major fire, but there is evidence of previous burns found in trees and soils in much of the park. The 1947 fire facilitated the

replacement of conifers with deciduous species such as birch and poplar. Therefore, there are currently large areas of 50-year-old woodlands, as well as other areas that have had a longer time to develop since being disturbed.

SHRUBS

Some of the most popular plants at Acadia National Park fall into the shrub category. Blueberries, both highbush and lowbush, cover mountain slopes and entice many visitors to snack while hiking during July and August. Other berries, like raspberries and blackberries can be found in open areas. The rugosa rose, with its perfume smell, dominates many areas along the coast.

In June, sheep laurel opens its small five-sided cup-like pink flowers, held in small umbels just below the plant's new growth for the year. Sweetfern, aptly named due to its overwhelming scent when leaves are crushed, is found along the edges of carriage roads and other open areas.

WILDFLOWERS

If you are in a wooded area of Acadia National Park, you are likely to find common, native woodland flowers, such as wild lily-of-the-valley (*Maianthemum canadense*), bunchberry (*Cornus canadensis*), goldthread (*Coptis trifolia* formerly *C. groenlandica*), bluebead lily (*Clintonia borealis*), and starflower (*Trientalis borealis*). Bunchberry is a member of the dogwood family and has dogwoodlike white flowers in spring and red "bunchberries" later in the season. Notice the arching veins on its leaves, a hallmark of the dogwood family (*Cornaceae*). Bluebead lily has a pale yellow flower in spring and later a striking blue, beaded fruit that is poisonous. Goldthread gets its common name from its golden threadlike roots. You can take a peak at the gold threads without harm to the plant by carefully pulling the soil or moss away from the roots and then pushing it back.

In August and September Acadia's native wildflowers, the asters and goldenrods, both in the aster family (*Asteraceae* formerly named *Compositae*), are in full bloom. Their European relatives, daisies and black-eyed susans, are also in this family. Each "flower" is a composite made up of many disk and ray flowers. Disk flowers are in the middle surrounded by ray flowers. Each "she loves me, she loves me not" petal is actually a complete flower (take a look with a hand lens). So what appears to be one aster or daisy flower is made up of many disk and ray flowers densely packed together. If you look very carefully at goldenrods you will see that they too are made up of tiny daisy-like "flowers."

FERNS

Visitors to Acadia National Park will undoubtedly find many ferns, an interesting group of spore-producing plants. They thrive in cool, moist, shaded areas, which are quite common on the coast of Maine! Some of the easier-to-recognize ferns are species of rock polypody (*Polypodium virginianum* and *P. appalachianum*) which appear almost identical, and are often found growing in leaf litter duff on top of large rocks. The fronds are singular and look like they are growing in a small colony or mat. If you turn one of the fronds over you may see the round sori, clusters of spore-producing structures, on the underside.

Another pair of related common ferns are cinnamon fern (*Osmunda cinnamomea*) and interrupted fern (*Osmunda claytoniana*). These two also look very much alike. Both are large ferns with non-fertile (vegetative) fronds arranged in whorls around the center. Cinnamon fern has separate, fertile, spore-producing fronds that sprout from the center of the plant in spring. These fronds are a cinnamon-like golden brown in color, which accounts for the plant's common name. Interrupted fern produces fertile leaflets in the upper third of the vegetative fronds, hence the frond is "interrupted" by the smaller fertile leaflets "within" the frond.

MOSESSES

If you find a bog in Acadia National Park you are sure to see sphagnum (pronounced "sfagnum") moss. Mosses, like ferns, reproduce by spores. However, mosses don't have well-developed conductive tissue and therefore cannot move water and nutrients throughout their systems as effectively as ferns and other vascular plants. Because of this, mosses by necessity always grow in low mats in wet areas close to their nutrient source. Sphagnum species are common and come in shades of green, red, and brown. Bog hummocks, which are small mounds of sphagnum, often form to create an undulating bog surface. Each species of sphagnum finds its own niche based on levels of soil moisture. Therefore, the species of sphagnum growing on the top of the hummocks are usually different from the ones growing between the hummocks!

LICHENS

A symbiotic relationship between a fungus and algae defines what lichens are. Each part of the plant provides an important function. The fungus anchors the plant to its substrate, whether rock, tree, or ground. Secretion of an acid dissolves minerals that are then absorbed by the fungus and utilized by the algae, which manufactures the food needed for the continued growth of the lichen.

There are three groups of lichens found in Acadia. The fruticose lichens have small stalk-like appendages. One that captures the eye of many people are the British

soldiers (*Cladonia cristatella*), small green stalks with bright red caps. The multi-branching reindeer lichens (*Cladonia rangiferina* and *gracilis*) have pale grayish-green stalks and carpet both open sunny areas and forest floors. Old man's beard (*Usnea barbada*) is a stringy long lichen that hangs in the branches of spruce trees.

Foliose lichens are flat growing but have "leafy" margins. One example is the rock tripe (*Umbilicaria vellea*). Covering expanses of rock on mountain slopes, it resembles peeling paint. Its surface is olive-brown in color while the undersides are brownish-black. The yellowish Xanthoria found along the ocean's edge is another example. Crustose lichens cling to a substrate's surface, often appearing to be part of it. They are clearly evident on the island's granite, changing the rock's pinkish hue to gray, green, or black.

FRESHWATER PLANTS

Freshwater (also referred to as "aquatic") plants are probably one of the most conspicuous features of the lakes, ponds, and streams of Acadia National Park. Approximately 80 species of freshwater plants can be found in the park, with an additional dozen species that are considered semi-aquatic shoreline species. Seven of these aquatic or semi-aquatic species are either currently listed or proposed for listing on Maine's Official List of Endangered and Threatened Plants, while about 30 others are considered "locally rare."

Some freshwater plants grow completely submerged. Others are rooted in the bottom, but their leaves or flowers may be on or above the water's surface. These are respectively known as "floating" and "emergent" vegetation. All freshwater plants are important members of the aquatic community, providing shelter and nesting sites to a variety of fishes and other animals, and serving as an important food source for mammals, waterfowl, and turtles.

About a quarter of the plants that one encounters at Acadia National Park appear "grasslike." The amateur would probably call all of these grasses, but in fact some are sedges and some are rushes. Here is a little rhyme to help tell the three apart: "sedges have edges, rushes are round, and grasses have joints." Sedges usually have a triangular stem, rushes have round stems, and grasses have a jointed stem. Sedges, grasses, and rushes often inhabit wet areas. All of them have flowers; they just aren't showy. Take a closer look and you will be amazed at the diversity of these wind-pollinated wildflowers!

For a common plant checklist, see appendix C.



Fact Sheet – Caring for Acadia’s Native Plants

EXOTIC PLANTS

Exotic plants are non-native species introduced by humans into an area where they did not previously exist. Some may have escaped from gardens. Others have traveled via ship ballast, car and truck tires, and boats. Exotics can also be spread in road salt and sand, as well as in fill. It is the aspect of human influence that distinguishes exotics from native plants that occur naturally in an area.

The presence of exotics in national parks is not uncommon. In fact, nearly one quarter of the 1,101 plant species found in Acadia are exotics. National parks were set aside to protect and preserve natural, cultural, and scenic resources. Since exotics may threaten these resources, staff at many parks, including Acadia, work to control them.

Some exotic plants, like purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), are extremely invasive. A showy, non-native perennial introduced from Europe, purple loosestrife has striking pink/purple or magenta colored flower spikes that bloom from mid-July through the end of August. Despite its attractive appearance, it threatens the existence of native plants and wildlife in wetlands by choking out native vegetation such as cattails (*Typha latifolia*). Without its native European biological controls of insects and diseases, purple loosestrife can devastate wetlands.

Many species of mammals, fish, insects, and waterfowl, including mallards, muskrats, and red-winged blackbirds, depend on a variety of aquatic plants that purple loosestrife pushes out. In some parts of the northeast, purple loosestrife has completely taken over wetlands, creating a monoculture by choking out native plants. In the summer, Maine Interstate 95 displays spikes of purple in drainage areas—evidence of purple loosestrife on the move. Here in Acadia, management is keeping it under control in the park’s wetlands, but outside of the park, its population is growing in wetlands.

Management of exotic species in Acadia includes determining whether a particular exotic poses a serious threat to native resources and whether control is feasible, identifying and monitoring areas where non-native plants grow, and deciding what treatments will be effective. Purple loosestrife, for example, is managed by carefully spraying an herbicide on individual plants, and educating park neighbors and local nurseries about this invasive ornamental. The use of an herbicide in a national park requires adherence to strict guidelines. First, it must be determined that the use of the herbicide is the only reasonable option and that the problem, ignored, could worsen. Second, the chosen herbicide must have undergone rigorous testing and be considered safe for use by the Environmental Protection Agency. Approval for use

must be obtained from the Department of Agriculture, National Park Service, and the Maine Board of Pesticide Control. The least toxic and quickest biodegrading herbicide was selected.

There are currently 12 non-native plant species in Acadia National Park that are of high management concern. Garlic mustard is an early spring flower that can replace native spring ephemeral wildflowers and dominate the understory of deciduous forests and woodlands. Japanese barberry has the ability to reside in a wide range of habitats including forest understories, wetlands, and fields, and it too can out-compete native plants. Other invasive plants in Acadia include oriental bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*), and buckthorn (*Frangulus alnus* and *Rhamnus catharticus*). Not all exotics are necessarily harmful. Some, such as domestic apple trees (*Pyrus malus*) and lilacs (*Syringa sp.*) grow in former home sites and are not invasive, nor do they directly threaten other plants or wildlife.

HOME SWEET HOME – NATIVE PLANTS

Problems created by plants like purple loosestrife provide a clear example of the implications of non-native plants in national parks. Charged with preserving natural ecosystems, National Park Service policies direct parks to use native rather than non-native plants for landscaping and revegetation within their boundaries.

Using native plants preserves the genetic integrity of native plant communities and assures compatibility with plants already growing there, increasing the chances for plant survival. Native plants have adapted over centuries to the area's climate and soils and need virtually little care. The base of the food chain for the area is formed by native plants that provide food wildlife depends on.

Salvaging plants that would otherwise have been destroyed during the carriage road rehabilitation project is one example of how Acadia uses native vegetation. These plants are used to restore sites damaged from trampling and erosion, reduce or prevent visitor impacts, screen development from view, or stabilize soil during and after construction. Relocating these plants within the park guarantees that genetically native materials are planted versus those purchased in a nursery. Although nurseries may carry native species, the plants they sell are probably not the same genetic stock growing naturally in Acadia National Park.

Acadia National Park's vigilant monitoring and control of purple loosestrife protects wetlands for native plant species and wildlife while the establishment of a native revegetation program is a vital part of the protection of all park habitats. Both of these projects are an important component in maintaining the park ecosystem intact well into the future.

PLANTS UNDERFOOT

Although most of the plants on Acadia's mountain summits had been identified, little was understood about their associations within plant communities. This deficit of information limited the understanding of the ecology of these subalpine plants. Some of these plant species are considered rare and unusual to Maine coastal environments, usually at home in the more northerly latitudes or on mountain peaks like Mount Washington in New Hampshire.

Because of the increase in visitation on Acadia's summits in the last few decades, investigations on the ecology and recreational effects on these plant communities was necessary. Discoveries note that indeed, constant trampling underfoot changes the composition of these communities. Subalpine species affected include alpine clubmoss, mountain sandwort, deer grass, and mountain cranberry. Areas on summits may be roped off in an attempt to keep visitor impact in specific sites rather than spread across the summits.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Take a stand against the invaders! Avoid purchasing from nurseries plants that are known to be invasive, such as purple loosestrife, Japanese barberry, oriental bittersweet, or buckthorn.

Watch your step! While exploring natural areas, stay on designated trails to avoid crushing tiny plants underfoot and disturbing fragile habitats. Remember, plants grow by the inch and die by the foot.

It all starts at home! Check your own home or garden. Are the plants native to your area? If not, do their seeds spread to other areas? Consider removing plants you know to be invasive.

Garden with natives! Contact local nurseries that sell native plants. Your local extension service, nature centers and gardening clubs can also assist you with your gardening needs. Please remember, plant species native to Acadia may not be suited to other regions. Use plants native to your area and growing conditions.

Leave it be! In Acadia National Park, collecting plants, or any other natural or historic objects, degrades the park and threatens species survival. Collecting is prohibited!

Visit www.fws.gov (US Fish and Wildlife Service) for a national plant list of threatened and endangered plant species, and learn the identity of threatened plants in your area.



Fact Sheet – Acadia's Common Plants

This abbreviated field guide provides basic information on some of Acadia National Park's most common plants. For more information, refer to field guides or visit the Wild Gardens at Sieur de Monts Spring. A plant checklist is found in Appendix C.

DECIDUOUS TREES

Paper Birch (*Betula papyrifera*)

Description

- Clear, white peeling bark with narrow horizontal stripes
- Oval, toothed leaves (vs. gray birch with triangular pointed leaves)

General Information

- Good wildlife browse—beaver, deer and moose eat leaves and twigs; grouse eat buds
- Durable bark used for canoe, wigwam coverings, containers by American Indians
- Often repopulates disturbed areas (fire; cutting). Seeds survive one to two years and are carried by wind

Where Found

- Found in open areas and large expanses in areas burned in 1947. One of the most beautiful birch forests at Acadia is along the northern side of Great Head.

Bigtooth Aspen (*Populus grandidentata*)

Description

- Smooth, greenish-gray bark
- Large roundish toothed leaves that shake in even slight breeze; petiole (leaf stalk) flat, not round
- White fluffy seeds from catkins look like snow in late May, June
- Bright yellow autumn color

General Information

- Rapid growing, short-lived tree
- Favorite beaver food

Where Found

- Areas associated with the 1947 fire or other disturbances; often found growing with paper birch

Quaking Aspen (*Populus tremuloides*)

Description

- Smooth, greenish-gray bark; smaller tree than bigtooth aspen
- Small, roundish leaves with 20-40 pairs of fine teeth; far less noticeable than the bigtooth aspens deeply toothed leaves; flat petiole (leaf stalk)

General Information

- Good wildlife browse for beavers, grouse, deer, snowshoe hare
- Seeds windborne and can repopulate disturbed areas quickly; can also repopulate by root cloning, sending up new shoots from root stock

Where Found

- Areas associated with the 1947 fire or other disturbances

Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*)

Description

- Beautiful, spreading branched tree
- Indented leaves have five lobes with u-shaped indentations (think “sugar-bowl” shaped)
- Opposite branched

General Information

- Excellent tree for maple syrup—40 gallons of sap boils down to 1 gallon of syrup

Where Found

- Indicator tree for undisturbed area and fertile soil; along open meadow edges

Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*)

Description

- Thinner tree than sugar maple; narrower branching pattern
- Indented leaves have five lobes with v-shaped indentations; silvery-white underneath

General Information

- Easily colonizes after fire by suckering

Where Found

- Often found in disturbed areas and Acadia’s wet marshes

Red Oak (*Quercus rubrum*)Description

- Tall, stately tree growing on dry soils
- Furrowed bark with reddish coloration in furrows from lichens associated with red oaks
- Pointed leaves with 7-11 lobes

General Information

- Acorns important wildlife food

Where Found

- Grows along dry hillsides
- One of two oaks in Acadia; other oak—bear oak (only found on Acadia and St. Sauveur Mountains)

American Beech (*Fagus grandifolia*)Description

- Smooth, gray bark—found around Bubble Pond, Bubble Rock, Wildwood Stables area
- Oval, toothed leaves

General Information

- Beech nuts are favorite wildlife food
- Indicates fertile soil conditions; beech root sucker, often creating monocultures

Where Found

- Around undisturbed areas in valleys; South Bubble and Wildwood Stables are two such areas

Shadbush (*Amelanchier sp.*)Description

- Can be shrub-like or tree; grows in part shade in understory or on woodland edges
- Alternate leaves are finely toothed; flowers in spring are white with five petals (rose-like; member of the rose family); make a beautiful spring display

General Information

- Named for its flowering display that occurs when the shad (fish) run; also called serviceberry

Where Found

- Common in disturbed and wet areas

Fire Cherry (*Prunus pensylvanica*)

Description

- Small tree or shrub, 10 to 20 feet tall
- Smooth, reddish brown bark with small white “dots”—lenticels
- Three to five inch long leaves with serrated margins
- Creamy white flowers borne in long clusters.

General Information

- Pale-red cherries food for wildlife

Where Found

- Thickets and young, sunny woods
- Found in burned over areas

CONIFEROUS TREES

Red Spruce (*Picea rubens*)

Description

- 1/2" long yellowish-green needles. Small reddish hairs on needle branches
- 1" to 1-1/2" long cones are reddish-brown when new

General Information

- Shade tolerant; can remain stunted for years until sun is available
- Most common tree at Acadia; reaches its southern edge in Maine

Where Found

- West side of Acadia
- Older spruce forests between Otter Point and Jordan Pond

Balsam Fir (*Abies balsamea*)

Description

- Flat needles grow along one plane; 1/2" to 1-1/2" long needles; shiny dark green above; Silvery underneath
- Cylindrical 2" to 4" long cones; dark purple when young

General Information

- Common and traditional Christmas tree—wonderful scent

Where Found

- Associated with red spruce forests in Acadia; however, not as common and often only grows as an understory tree

White Spruce (*Picea glauca*)Description

- 1/3" to 3/4" blue-green sharp, pointed needles
- From a distance, has a whitish hue from fine hairs on the leaves and twigs

General Information

- Sometimes called skunk spruce—do not use this for a Christmas tree!

Where Found

- Grows right along the shoreline where climate is cooler due to ocean influence

Black Spruce (*Picea mariana*)Description

- Very short 1/4" to 1/2" sharply pointed needles
- Cones are grayish brown

General Information

- A predominantly northern tree, found all the way to the edge of the arctic tundra

Where Found

- Grows around edges of bogs and is often associated with tamarack
- Found in boggy areas around Seawall

Eastern Hemlock (*Tsuga Canadensis*)Description

- 1/3" to 2/3" long flat needles; lie mostly along one plane
- Cones are much smaller than spruce and grow on the ends of the twigs

General Information

- Soil cores indicate that hemlock dominated in ancient forests after the last glacial period

Where Found

- Shade and moisture loving tree growing in dark hollows
- Found around Cobblestone Carriage Road Bridge, Hemlock Carriage Road Bridge, and the Hemlock Road at Sieur de Monts Spring

Northern White Cedar (*Thuja occidentalis*)Description

- Leaves made up of small, overlapping yellowish-green scales that cover the surface of flattened branches
- Cones 1/3" to 1/2" long, erect clusters near twigs end
- Stringy bark

General Information

- Favorite browse of deer

Where Found

- Found in cool, swampy places; alongside lakeshores and streams

Tamarack (*Larix laricina*)Description

- Feathery, bright green needles
- The 1/2" to 1" needles grow in a bundle, stemming from a short stub-like projection on the twig
- Reddish-brown cones are less than 1"

General Information

- Deciduous evergreen, the tamarack loses its needles in the fall

Where Found

- Grows in boggy, wet areas around Seawall area. Associated with black spruce

White Pine (*Pinus strobus*)Description

- Five, long needles (3" to 5") in a bundle
- Cones are 6" to 8" long
- Grow 75 to 100 feet tall

General Information

- Used for ship's masts at one time—British king had white pines marked to be used for the British fleet

Where Found

- Dry soils and mountain ridges

Red Pine (*Pinus resinosa*)

Description

- Needles are 5" to 6" long in bundles of two
- Has reddish, plated bark
- Cones are smaller and wider than white pine; 2" to 3" tall

General Information

- Sometimes mistakenly called Norway pine

Where Found

- Dry ridges like Acadia Mountain and the upper north end of Eagle Lake

Pitch Pine (*Pinus rigida*)

Description

- Rich, green needles of 1" to 3" in clumps of 3
- 1-1/2" to 3-1/2" long cones with recurved prickles on the cone bracts
- Bark is purplish red with ridges and furrows

General Information

- In many areas of the country, pitch pine cones only open to release seeds when fire is present; at its northern edge here, that does not seem to hold true

Where Found

- Grows in rocky, dry areas; especially prominent at Great Head, Gorham Mountain, and Wonderland

SHRUBS

Smooth Alder (*Alnus serrulata*)

- Shrub that forms thickets in watery areas
- Leaves are 1" long and leathery with fine teeth
- Male and female reproductive flowers—male: catkins; female: small cones
- Along water edges like Jordan Pond and Eagle Lake

Lowbush Blueberry (*Vaccinium angustifolium*)

- Low shrub; 1-2 feet tall
- Small, oval leaves
- White bell-like flowers become blueberries in late July and August
- On rocky mountain slopes and exposed areas like the front of Jordan Pond lawn and at the summit of Cadillac

Black Huckleberry (*Gaylussacia baccata*)

- Looks similar to blueberry
- Look for yellow resin "dots" under leaves
- Black berries are tart and seedy
- Often found in the same areas as blueberry

Sheep Laurel (*Kalmia angustifolia*)

- Rhododendron up to 3 feet high
- Leathery, narrow leaves 1" to 2" long
- Pink five-sided cup like flowers in clumps below this year's new growth
- Along meadow edges and rocky exposed areas along mountain trails
- Bloom mid-June to mid-July

Rhodora (*Rhododendron canadense*)

- Wild azalea 2-3 feet tall in wet areas
- Blooms in May-June before leaves appear
- Small, narrow purplish flowers
- Areas of Great Meadow turn pinkish with the flowers of this azalea

Rugosa Rose (*Rosa rugosa*)

- Dense stands of bright green crinkly leaves with pink or white-scented flowers
- Thick-spined stems
- Found along ocean side
- Rosehips in August
- Along the ocean—huge drifts of rugosa rose grow at the end of the Wonderland trail

Bayberry (*Myrica pensylvanica*)

- Thick, waxy leaves
- Pale blue waxy berries grow directly on twigs
- Grows along shoreline along the Ocean Trail and at Wonderland

Sweet Fern (*Comptonia peregrine*)

- Small fern-like 3" to 6" leaves on woody stems
- Grows 12" to 18" high in open dry sunny places
- Leaves have wonderful scent when crushed
- Found along many carriage road edges

WILDFLOWERS – OPEN AREAS

Fireweed (*Epilobium angustifolium*)

- 3-7 feet tall, grows in clumps
- Pink flowers on spikes, blooming in July and August

Hawkweed (*Hieracium pretense* or *aurantiacum*)

- Flowers can be orange or yellow
- Composite flower with numerous tiny flowers in one head
- 1-2 feet heavy stem blooming in fields and roadsides; June-September

Wild Lupine (*Lupinus perennis*)

- Clump forming with purple, pink, or white pea-like flowers in spikes 1-2 feet tall
- Palmate leaves on hollow stems
- Blooms in June and July

Meadowsweet (*Spirea latifolia*)

- 2-5 feet tall shrubby plants
- Fuzzy creamy white to pale pink flowers—blooms late June to September
- Sunny, moist meadows

Steeplebush (*Spirea tomentosa*)

- Similar in appearance to Meadowsweet, but with deep pink flowers
- Blooms in late July and August

Flat-topped Aster (*Aster umbellatus*)

- 2-7 feet tall plant
- 1/2" inch to 1" flat top white flowers with yellow centers, bloom August through September
- Dry, sunny areas

Big-Leaved Aster (*Aster macrophyllus*)

- 2-3 feet tall plant
- Light purple, inch long flowers with yellow centers bloom August through September
- Roadsides, clearings, and open woods

WILDFLOWERS – WOODED AREAS

Bunchberry (*Cornus canadensis*)

- Relative of dogwoods
- Groundcover in moist woods with dappled sunlight
- Flowers include four white bracts surrounding inconspicuous “flowers” which become red berries in late summer
- Leaves in a whorl of six

Canada Mayflower (*Maianthemum canadense*)

- Cool woods with dappled sun
- 3" to 6" high with 2 or 3 narrow oval leaves
- Creamy flowers with four petals clustered on a stalk bloom in May and June

Starflower (*Trientalis borealis*)

- Coniferous forests preferred
- 4" to 6" high with narrow, strap-like leaves in whorls of 5-9
- Blooms with 1 or 2 6-7 pointed star-like white flowers

WILDFLOWERS – MOUNTAIN SUMMITS OR ROCKY EXPOSED AREAS

Wine-leaved, or Three-toothed Cinquefoil (*Potentilla tridentate*)

- Low, growing plant with three narrow leaflets, 1/2" to 2" long
- 5-petal white flowers
- Grows in cracks and crevices in gravelly soil

Harebell (*Campanula rotundifolia*)

- Often nestled in cracks of rocks along the shore or in higher elevations
- Basal leaves with stalk of blue-bell like flowers; 6" to 18" tall
- Blooms July-September

WILDFLOWERS – OCEAN-SIDE FLOWERS

Beach Pea (*Lathyrus japonicus*)

- 1" to 2" compound leaves are divided into 6 or 12 leaflets
- Purplish, pink pea flowers bloom from late May to August
- Small pea pods left behind after flowering
- Grows right in sandy and rocky areas

Sea Lavender (*Limonium nashii*)

- Tiny, 5-petal pale purple flowers bunch together to form sprays
- Plant is one to two feet tall
- Grows in upper levels of salt marshes; salt tolerant